

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

Edited by

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PREFACE

Women empowerment is the process of giving women the power, freedom, and equal opportunities to make their own decisions and control their lives in social, economic, and political spheres. A detailed and comprehensive study of the status of women in Indian society, their rights, and the constitutional and legal framework designed to empower them is depicted. The aim of this book is not merely to present a list of laws, but also to understand the principles, values, and ideologies on which these provisions have been formulated.

India is a democratic republic where the Constitution holds supreme authority. The Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to equality, liberty, and justice. These rights are particularly important in the context of women, as they have historically faced various forms of discrimination and inequalities at the social, economic, and political levels. Against this backdrop, the Indian Constitution has made special provisions to protect women's rights, striving to provide them with equal opportunities and ensure their overall development.

Women's empowerment is not limited to the mere attainment of rights; it is also a process of developing women's self-reliance, self-confidence, and decision-making abilities. Legal provisions play a crucial role in this context, as they provide security to women and form the basis for the protection of their rights. Laws such as the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Protection from Domestic Violence Act, the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act are important steps towards ensuring safe and dignified lives for women.

However, it is also true that women's empowerment is not fully achieved simply by enacting laws. Effective implementation of these laws, social awareness, and a change in mindset are equally essential. Many times, women are unaware of their rights or are unable to exercise them due to social pressure. Therefore, this book not only describes legal provisions, but also considers their practical aspects, challenges, and solutions.

A landmark step in political empowerment is the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023), which provides 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, marking a transformative move toward inclusive

governance. Several targeted schemes continue to play a key role, including: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (education and awareness), Mission Shakti (safety and empowerment), New initiatives like Subhadra Yojana (2024) providing financial assistance to women, Emerging proposals like SHE-Marts (Budget 2026) focusing on women entrepreneurship and self-help groups.

This book is especially useful for students, researchers, teachers, and all readers who wish to delve deeper into women's rights, constitutional provisions, and social justice. It uses simple and clear language to facilitate readers' understanding of the subject matter. Furthermore, various examples and analyses illustrate how these provisions are applied in real life and impact women's lives.

This book aims to inspire readers to not only understand the constitutional and legal framework but also to internalize their significance and inspire them to work towards equality and justice in society. Women's empowerment is not just a women's issue; it is linked to the development and progress of society as a whole. Only when women are educated, safe, and self-reliant will the creation of an egalitarian and prosperous nation be possible.

Ultimately, this book strives to serve as a guide, providing readers with not only information but also inspiring them to reflect, understand, and bring about positive change in society. It is hoped that this book will prove to be a useful contribution to the field of women's empowerment and enrich readers' knowledge and perspectives.

Dr. Abhishek Kumar

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